

NEWS RELEASE

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a division of the
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jefferson City, Missouri

Prepare for Boating Season

Spend some time now on your boat and you can make the rest of the boating season safer and more enjoyable, says the Missouri State Water Patrol.

We recommend that boaters check the following before their first outing of the season:

- Make sure you have an approved life jacket on board and in good condition for each passenger.
- Inspect the hull for cracks or blisters.
- Inspect bilge plug fittings and replace any that have cracked. Look for hoses that have been forced off or split from freezing. Every spring, boats sink at the dock when these problems go undetected until the first heavy rain.
- Thru-hull fittings below the water line should be tight; sea valves should operate freely.
- Inspect fuel fittings and hoses; replace if cracked or showing other signs of stress or age.
- Get fresh batteries for portable electronic gear – radios, GPS, flashlights.
- Check lights on the boat and trailer. Inspect trailer tires for wear and inflate properly. Check the trailer frame for rust spots; inspect the wheel bearings and re-pack if necessary. Test the winch.
- Check expiration dates on flares and fire extinguishers; replenish the first-aid kit.
- Creamy brown or gray engine or drive oil has water in it and a mechanic should find the source of the leak before you start the engine.
- Inspect dock and anchor lines for wear and replace if needed.
- Update your navigational chart inventory. Channel markers and buoys change.
- Review your boat insurance policy and update coverage if necessary.
- Take a boating safety course. Check our web page at www.mswp.state.mo.us for dates, times and locations of upcoming classes.

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WWW Home Page <http://www.mswp.state.mo.us>